

JOE MANCHIN III  
WEST VIRGINIA

SUITE 306  
HART BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3954

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

ENERGY AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 10, 2014

President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I support the military ethos that no comrade is left behind on the battlefield. With our last unaccounted-for service member in Afghanistan safely in U.S. control, it is now time to turn our attention to expediting the return of all American service members from Afghanistan.

Our war in Afghanistan—which began for the right reasons, with limited goals—has now consumed 12 years, untold billions of dollars, and cost the lives of more than two thousand brave Americans.

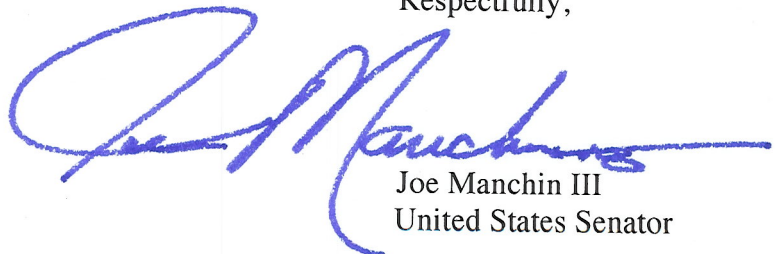
Unfortunately, this investment has not reduced the endemic corruption that impedes the Afghan government's ability to provide security or services throughout the country. To provide a fraction of those things today, the Afghan government relies considerably on support from the United States and the international community.

Inevitably, our substantial sponsorship of the Afghan state must come to an end. Whether that happens tomorrow or in 2016 or later, the inevitable outcome is a corrupt narco-state unwilling to abide by international norms or support American interests. In that context, I find it immoral to continue putting American lives at risk for a foregone conclusion.

Therefore, I ask you again to revisit your decision to retain 9,800 American service members in Afghanistan beyond 2014. This number will not turn the tide of corruption, reverse the ineptitude of Afghan leadership, or undo the long history of regional tribalism that has rebuffed every Western attempt to improve the state of Afghanistan.

Mr. President, end the war in Afghanistan and bring our remaining troops home.

Respectfully,



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

Cc:  
Secretary of Defense Charles Hagel